

COINS

Silver sales slump, while rare dates rise

By Roger Boye

The slumping silver market has forced editors of the "Red Book" to lower prices for hundreds of common-date silver coins listed in the newest edition of coin collecting's most popular reference.

But the values of many "rare-date" pieces—including several old Lincoln cents, buffalo nickels, and silver dollars—went up 40 per cent or more in the last year, according to figures in the just-released 1982 edition.

"Prices in the new Red Book indicate that the last 12 months have been a mixed bag for coin investors," said a longtime Chicago collector. "The boom market of 1979 and early 1980—when almost all old coins went up in price—is over."

Many hobby experts eagerly await publication of each year's Red Book to determine trends in the rare coin market. As in past editions, the newest catalog included the average "retail prices" for all U.S. coins; figures are compiled from information supplied by more than 60 prestigious coin dealers.

The annually produced catalog is known formally as "A Guide Book of United States Coins," by R. S. Yeoman. Coin dealers are selling the 1982 [35th] edition for \$4.95, or it can be ordered for \$5.95 [includes postage] by writing to Western Publishing Co., Inc., Dept. M Sales, P.O. Box 700, Racine, Wis. 53401.